

- b) infecting the at least one eye cell with the defective recombinant adenovirus; and
- c) expressing the gene.

15. The method of claim 14, wherein the defective recombinant adenovirus is a type AD 2 adenovirus.

16. The method of claim 14, wherein the defective recombinant adenovirus is a type AD 5 adenovirus.

17. The method of claim 14, wherein the gene encodes a protein.

18. The method of claim 17, wherein the protein is growth factor, cytokine, neurotrophin, regulatory factor, enzyme, interferon, or tumor necrosis factor.

19. The method of claim 18, wherein the protein is ornithine aminotransferase, rhodopsin, RDS peripherin, tyrosinase, mitochondrial NDI, the  $\beta$  subunit of cGMP phosphodiesterase, rab geranyl transferase, basic fibroblast growth factor, or interleukin-8.

20. The method of claim 14, wherein the gene encodes an antisense RNA molecule.

21. The method of claim 14, wherein the defective recombinant adenovirus has a genome lacking at least one region needed to replicate in the eye cell.

22. The method of 14, wherein the defective recombinant adenovirus is administered by subretinal injection or intravitreal injection.

23. The method of claim 22, wherein the subretinal injection is carried out in the vitreous, anterior chamber, or the retrobulbar space.

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